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Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for careful consideration of this application. Claims 1, 2, and 4 - 7 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended. Claims 8 - 10 have been cancelled. Support for all amendments can be found in the specification as originally filed. No new matter has been added.

Objections to the Specification

Applicants have amended the Abstract to remove the second paragraph. Accordingly, the Examiner's objection to the Abstract has been attended to and withdrawal of the Examiner's objection is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 USC 112, First Paragraph

Claims 1 and 4-10 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph as the specification does not contain a written description of the claimed invention.

The Examiner alleges that deletion of the term "organic" broadens Claims 1 and 4-10 beyond nitrous acid. Applicants have amended independent Claim 1 to encompass "organic nitro compounds or H-NO₂" and the definition of general formula (I) in amended Claim 2 to recite organic nitro compounds. Accordingly, Applicants have attended to the Examiner's rejection and respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Rejections Under 35 USC 102 or 103

Claims 8-10 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent Application No. 2001/0014726 to Langstein et al.

Claims 8-10 have been cancelled rendering the Examiner's rejection moot.

Claim 2

Claim 2 stands objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. Independent Claim 1 has been amended to overcome the Examiner's rejections and is

respectfully deemed allowable. Accordingly, Claim 2 no longer is dependent on a rejected base claim rendering the Examiner's objection moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's objection is respectfully requested.

It is believed that the pending claims are now in condition for allowance and notice to such effect is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this application, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone conference with the undersigned.

The USPTO is hereby authorized to charge any fees, including any fees for an extension of time or those under 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17, which may be required by this paper, and/or to credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-2527.

Respectfully submitted,

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